

Top Secret



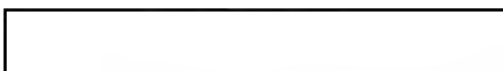
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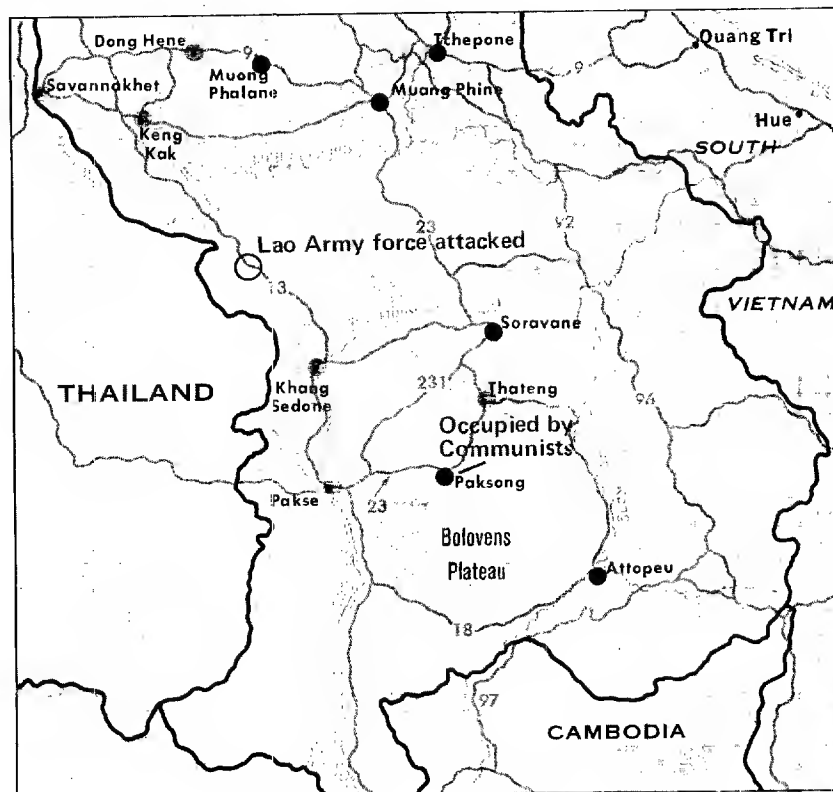
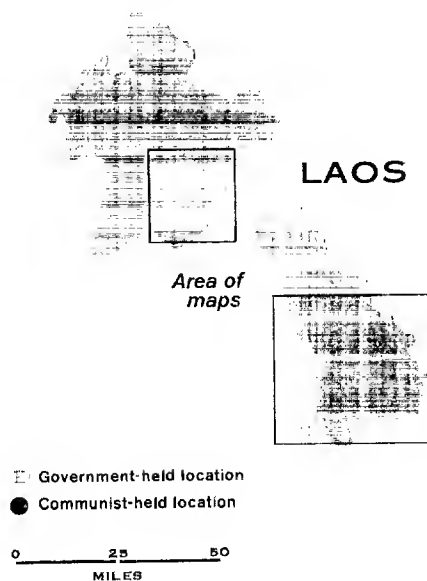
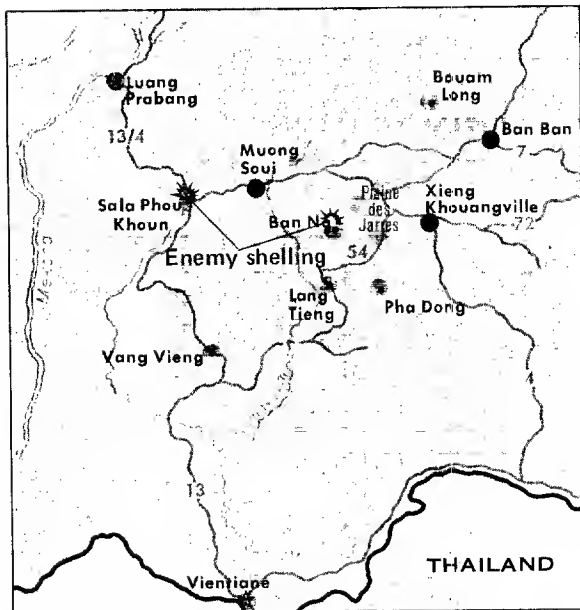
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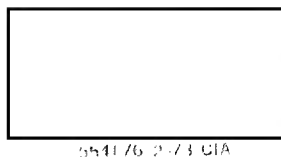
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Since the cease-fire went into effect at noon on 22 February, the only significant position to change hands has been Paksong on the Bolovens Plateau. One government battalion that withdrew from the town is still holding high ground just east of Paksong, but it will probably join the other units retreating west along Route 23. Only heavy air support had allowed the irregulars to reoccupy Paksong earlier this month.

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Small Communist units also attacked a Lao Army force along Route 13 north of Khong Sedone late on 22 February and, in the north, enemy gunners shelled government positions near Ban Na and the Sala Phou Khoun road junction.

Meanwhile, Souvanna in a press conference today accused the Communists of 29 serious cease-fire violations and claimed that he would seek renewed US air support if the violations continue. Souvanna also reportedly stated that his troops would retake Paksong from the Communists.

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